

Approved For Release 2006/03/10 : CIA-RDP78-03097A000500060140-8

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22 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directorate of Intelligence, USAF

SUBJECT : Interference with Monitoring of Peking
Transmissions by Air Force MARS Activity.

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1. [] of this Agency,

in performance of its mission of monitoring foreign broadcasts and press transmissions as assigned by the National Security Council, regularly processes transmissions of the New China News Agency (NCNA), Peking, which are beamed to this country in Morse code. Since this country does not maintain diplomatic relations with Communist China, these transmissions in effect constitute the Peking Government's informal but official channel for direct dissemination of information and policy to the United States Government. As is also known to the Directorate, Communist China's radio frequencies are not allocated or coordinated internationally and are not always applied on the basis of the best technical theory. As a consequence, the [] seasonally encounters considerable difficulty in monitoring the complete transmissions. When this difficulty is aggravated by interference, the task becomes impossible.

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2. In recent weeks Peking has shifted its frequency to 7300 kc/s, 3 kc/s higher than the official Military Affiliated Radio System channel. Since Peking offers at certain hours weak A-1 emission, it has become highly vulnerable to the stronger A-3 emission of the MARS network in the Midwest and Southwest which is active daily on 7305 kc/s.

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3. While backstop monitoring is carried out overseas by ☐ FOIAB3B1

the time lag in processing and communicating to Washington is 4 hours or more. Since current relations between this Government and Communist China are in a critical phase it is considered that we can ill-afford to risk delaying important intercepts in this fashion.

Because past experience indicates Peking will probably not change its frequency until July, it would appear the only relief obtainable which will permit direct monitoring and instantaneous communication from ☐ FOIAB3B1 in California would be for the MARS network to observe a silent period (1800-2400 GMT) or to shift operations to another frequency during the critical period (it is understood that MARS may without Federal coordination utilize any frequency in the authorized amateur bands.)

4. It will therefore be appreciated if the matter is discussed with appropriate authorities with a view toward effecting the earliest possible relief to the monitoring of Peking. ☐ will be glad to advise MARS when conditions again permit use of the frequency 7305 kc/s should it be considered not feasible to transfer operations to another frequency on a permanent basis.

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GEORGE G. CAREY
Assistant Director for Operations

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